
CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS

Summary of Meeting held April 30 – May 1, 2023

The CMA Board of Directors (“[the Board](#)”) met in person on April 30 – May 1, 2023 to receive updates and move several of its priority strategic initiatives forward, including the approval of CMA’s Indigenous Health Goal, and to receive several year-end reports from management, including the year-end Financial Statements. Highlights include:

Presidential Updates

CMA President Dr. Alika Lafontaine, Immediate Past President, Dr. Katharine Smart, and President-Elect Dr. Kathleen Ross, provided updates to the Board on their work. The work of CMA’s French spokesperson, Dr. Jean Joseph Condé was also acknowledged.

CMA Impact 2040 Strategic Updates

The Board received updates on the progress against each of the [CMA’s Priority Strategic Initiatives](#) since its last meeting in February, 2023. With a refreshed focus on its Priority Strategic Initiatives (PSIs), the CMA management team reported the following work underway:

Indigenous Health in allyship with First Nations, Inuit and Metis people

Approval of Indigenous Health Goal

- The Indigenous Guiding Circle (IGC) had its last session on April 13, 2023 where members endorsed the proposed Indigenous Health goal. (For more information about the Indigenous Guiding Circle see link [here.](#))
- This officially closes the IGC after having completed its mandate.
- The Board approved the following Indigenous Health Goal recommended by the IGC:

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Board of Directors approves the following Indigenous Health goal statement as part of the Impact 2040 strategy:

Indigenous Peoples achieve measurable, ongoing improvements in health and wellness, supported by a transformed health system that is free of racism and discrimination; upholds Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination; values, respects and holds safe space Indigenous worldviews, medicine and health practices; and provides equitable access to culturally safe, trauma-informed care for all First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

- The CMA Board met together with the members of the IGC to honour and celebrate the approval of the Indigenous Health Goal. The First Nation Elder from the IGC presented the CMA with seven eagle feathers in recognition of its commitment to apologize for past and on-going medical harms experienced by Indigenous peoples and to walk the path of truth and reconciliation together with indigenous peoples..

Commitment to Official Apology

- In commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions’ Calls to Action, and as supported by the IGC, the Board passed the following motions:

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Medical Association commits to making a public

apology to all Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis).

The Board of Directors of the Canadian Medical Association confirms that the public apology will be to all Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) and from the CMA as the national voice representing physicians across Canada.

- Next steps were reviewed with the Board with a goal of completing the apology by mid-late 2024.
- The Committee on Ethics will continue to help inform the project.

Improving Physician Wellness by Reducing Administrative Load

- At the February 2023 Board meeting, a motion was approved to create a time-limited Working Group (WG) on Administrative Burden.
- The Board approved the Terms of Reference of the Administrative Burden Working Group (ABWG), including its composition.

Integrated Health Human Resource (IHHR) Planning

- CMA's ongoing work to shape the federal agenda on health workforce priorities was presented. Pillars and priorities for action were informed by the 8 HHR Recommendations co-developed by CMA/CNA/CFPC.

Pan-Canadian Licensure (PCL)

- CMA's work to engage key audiences and decision makers to highlight the impacts, benefits, challenges and unintended consequences of PCL continues to shape future PCL action plans.
- CMA continues to work together with key stakeholders including the PTMAs, the Canadian Medical Forum (CMF), the CMA, Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) and the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) in the creation of targeted focus groups to explore PCL and to identify issues associated with cross-jurisdictional mobility of physicians from 3 perspectives (patients, payer/employer, physicians).

Net Zero Carbon Emissions Health Systems

- On March 6, the CMA provided a [submission](#) to the federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities. It outlines four recommendations for federal investment in climate-resilient and sustainable health infrastructure which is part of the Government of Canada's development of new and renewed infrastructure funding.
- The CMA is looking to support the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution on climate both through advocacy work for Canada to support it and through signing on to the concept note. The adoption of the resolution is being sought for the 2024 WHA meeting.

Health Workforce Framework for Psychological, Physical, and Cultural (PPC) Safety

- Work to advance PPC safety is ongoing, including presentations at the Canadian Institute for Pandemic Health Education & Response Collaborative conference, the International Conference on Academic Medicine (ICAM) in Quebec City and the upcoming CMA Health Summit, as well as engagement opportunities were reported to the Board.

Aging with Dignity in the Community

- CMA will explore options for it to have an impact such as tracking F/P/T government funding on home care services and identify key elements for strong home care programs. CMA will also explore how it can help secure increased supports (e.g., home care) for older adults in Canada.

Public-Private Health Care Consultation

- At its meeting in February, 2023, the Board approved a Canada-wide consultation on the issue of public/private healthcare.

- At the request of the Board, the timeline was reduced from 2 years to 18 months and a revised timeline was presented to the satisfaction of the Board.

Transformative Giving Framework

- The Board received a presentation on transformative giving at the CMA.
- “Empowering through transformative giving” has been identified as a strategic enabler.
- Transformative giving at the CMA is designed to be collaborative and partnership-based. Its purpose is to support sustainable systems-level and social change.
- The CMA’s transformative giving strategy will ensure that all giving streams are intentional, coordinated, synergistic and singularly focused on advancing CMA’s strategic priorities in an impactful manner.

Risk & Committee Reports

Risk Appetite Statement Review

- The Board spent time reviewing and discussing its Risk Appetite Statement.
- CMA management will present a revised Risk Appetite Statement to the Board for review and approval at its meeting on June 20, 2023.

Audit & Finance Committee Report

- The Board received a report from Dr. David Cram, Chair of the CMA Audit & Finance Committee.
- The Board received the external audit report and approved the audited Financial Statements for the year-ended December 31, 2022. Copies of these Financial Statements will be provided to CMA members in the Annual Report.
- The Board, in its capacity as sole shareholder of CMA Impact Inc., received a copy of the audited Financial Statements for CMA Impact Inc. for the year-ended December 31, 2022.
- The Board, in its capacity as sole member of the CMA Foundation, received a copy of the audited Financial Statements for the CMA Foundation for the year-ended December 31, 2022.

Governance Committee Report

- Dr. Carl Nohr, Chair of the CMA Governance Committee, presented the report from the Governance Committee.
- The Board continues to be committed to meaningful consultation with members on bylaw changes.
- After discussion and debate, the Board focused on two themes for governance consultation: (a) the electorate in the President-Elect election, and (b) the role of the Immediate Past President on the Nominations Committee.
- An all-member survey on governance consultations will be sent out in May 2023 to identify members that wish to be highly engaged in governance consultations.
- Amendments to the Operating Rules and Procedures were approved by the Board in two areas:
 - Rule 3 of the ORPs, which deals with suspension or termination of a membership, was updated.
 - A housekeeping edit to Rule 2.1: Fee Schedule was updated to reflect the current year “2023”.
- The updated ORPs will be loaded to the CMA website for the reference of CMA members once translated into French.

Human Resources & Compensation Committee Report

- The Board met in camera and received a report from Ms. Janet Ecker, Chair of the Human Resources & Compensation Committee.
- Following this report, the Board approved the 2023 CEO Goals and Objectives and updates to the

CMA Respect in the Workplace Policy and Procedures.

Other Governance Matters

- **Election of Vice-Chair:** The final term of the Board Vice-Chair, Dr. Carl Nohr, ends at the 2023 AGM. The Board elected a new Vice-Chair of the Board, Dr. Paula Cashin, who will assume this role immediately following the 2023 AGM.
- **Election of Audit & Finance Committee Chair:** The final term of the CMA Audit & Finance Committee Chair, Dr. David Cram, ends at the 2023 AGM. The Board elected a new Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, Dr. Allison Kennedy, who will assume this role immediately following the 2023 AGM.
- The Board approved the directors of CMA Impact Inc. and the CMA Foundation. No changes to either Board were made.

For Information Reports

The Board received the following Information reports:

CMA Impact Inc. Stewardship Report

- The annual report on Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions was received.
- In December, 2020, the Board approved a fossil fuel divestment motion requiring that the CMA and its subsidiaries divest their investments from energy companies whose primary business relies on fossil fuels. The CMA Impact Inc. Board reported compliance with this motion.
- In December, 2020, the Board also set a target in 2020 to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in its long-term investment portfolio. It was reported that the long-term investment portfolio remains on track to achieve the first interim target of a 33% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

CMA Foundation Stewardship Report

- The CMA Foundation Board of Directors approved **health equity** as the strategic focus of its work, rooted in an equity-informed approach, and informed by the social determinants of health to ensure its funding programs are aligned to its sole member, CMA's, strategic goals and PSIs as set out in Impact 2040.
- The CMA Foundation Board of Directors approved four new grants for 2023 since its last report to the Board:
 - Black Physicians of Canada (\$500K)
 - Lancet Planetary Health Commission on Sustainable Healthcare (\$150K)
 - Choosing Wisely Canada (\$250K)
 - Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (\$250K)

Update on Cambie Litigation

- The Board received a report confirming that on April 6, 2023 the Supreme Court of Canada declined to hear the appeal of the *Cambie Surgeries Corporation et al. v. British Columbia Attorney General* case.
- No further steps will be taken by the CMA in this regard. The CMA will be engaging with members on a Canada-wide consultation on public-private healthcare as detailed earlier in these Highlights.

Vision: A vibrant profession and a healthy population
Guiding Principles: Equity, diversity, engagement, accountability, transparency, impact